

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00063 270547Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMCONSUL BELIZE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6084
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, BH, GT, UK
SUBJECT: CIVIL SERVICE UNION ON BELIZE DISPUTE

REF: STATE 18348

1. ONE NEW VOICE RAISED IN CURRENT DEBATE ON BELIZE DISPUTE IS
THAT OF PUBLIC OFFICERS UNION WHICH HAD THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
PUBLISHED IN BEACON LAST WEEKEND.

BEGIN TEXT: POU'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

1. THE PUBLIC OFFICERS UNION, THE TRADITIONAL AND AUTHORISED
BODY REPRESENTING, DIRECTLY, OVER THREE THOUSAND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES,
AND INDIRECTLY, THEIR FAMILIES AND DEPENDENTS, CONSTITUTES A
SIGNIFICANT SEGMENT OF THE BELIZEAN COMMUNITY.

2. WE HOLD THAT THE DISPUTE WITH GUATEMALA IS A GRAVE,
AND POTENTIALLY TERMINAL ISSUE OF OVERRIDING NATIONAL CONCERN,
ABOVE THE REALM OF PARTY POLITICS AND, BY VIRTUE OF THIS FACT, A
MATTER OF LEGITIMATE IMMEDIATE AND CONTINUING CONCERN TO ALL
PUBLIC OFFICERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND DEPENDENTS.

3. WE AFFIRM THE 'SQUARE CENTIMETRE' POLICY POSITION AND
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COMMIT OUR FULL AND UNRESERVED SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT,
ACTING IN CONCERT WITH THE OPPOSITION, IN MAINTAINING THIS
MINIMUM POSITION. ANY ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION INVOLVING
CESSION OF TERRITORY (WHICH INCLUDES TERRITORIAL WATERS) WILL BE
MET WITH IMPLACABLE OPPOSITION ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE
AND THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY IN VINDICATION OF ITS INALIENABLE
RIGHTS AND THE NATIONAL HONOUR.

4. WE OPPOSE AND WOULD RESIST WITH ALL THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE ANY DEREGATION OF FULL SOVEREIGNTY - SPECIFICALLY IN THE AREA OF DEFENCE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERNAL SECURITY, THE OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE, ENTRY AND MOVEMENT OF PERSONS WITH A FUTURE BELIZEAN STATE AND CULTURAL POLICY.

5. THE PUBLIC SERVICE WOULD CONDEMN AND DEPLORE ATTEMPTS BY ANY POWER, OR COMBINATION OF POWERS, TO PRESSURE BY THE APPLICATION OF FORCE, OR BY THREATS TO WITHDRAW, OR TO DIMINISH FORCES ALREADY COMMITTED TO THE DEFENCE OF BELIZE WITHIN ITS RECOGNISED BORDERS.

6. THE EXTREME GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION REQUIRES THAT BELIZEANS, INCLUDING PUBLIC OFFICERS, BE ALLOWED LATITUDE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES FULLY, FRANKLY AND WITHOUT RESERVE ON THE THREAT WHICH NOW, AS NEVER BEFORE, THREATENS OUR VERY EXISTENCE - AND SPECIFICALLY TO REBUT THE MENDACIOUS AND PROVOCATIVE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN NOW BEING ORCHESTRATED AGAINST US BY THE GUATEMALAN MASS MEDIA. END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: THE PUBLIC OFFICERS UNION NUMBERS LESS THAN 3,000 MEMBERS, BUT THE ORGANIZATION IS FAIRLY INFLUENTIAL. MOST SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS BELONG TO IT. THE STATEMENT WAS PROBABLY PREPARED BY A RELATIVELY SMALL GROUP WITHIN THE POU, POSSIBLY AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE UDP. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE NO REASON TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEVE IT IS UNREPRESENTATIVE OF THE VIEWS OF THE UNION'S MEMBERSHIP.
GAWF

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
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